

STEP 9

“Made direct amends to such people wherever possible except when to do so would injure them or others.”

GOOD judgement, a careful sense of timing, courage and prudence — these are the qualities we shall need when we take Step 9.

After we have made the list of people we had harmed, have reflected carefully upon each instance, and have tried to possess ourselves of the right attitude in which to proceed, we will see that the making of direct amends divides those we should approach into several classes. There will be those who ought to be dealt with just as soon as we become reason-

ably confident that we can maintain our sobriety. There will be those to whom we can make only partial restitution, lest complete disclosures do them or others more harm than good. There will be other cases where action ought to be deferred, and still others in which by the very nature of the situation we shall never be able to make direct personal contact at all.

Most of us begin making certain kinds of direct amends from the day we join Alcoholics Anonymous. The moment we tell

our families that we are really going to try the program, the process has begun. In this area there are seldom any questions of timing or caution. We want to come in the door shouting the good news. After coming from our first meeting, or perhaps after we have finished reading the book “Alcoholics Anonymous,” we usually want to sit down with some member of the family and readily admit the damage we have done by our drinking.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Page 83-84

TRADITION 9 LONG FORM

“A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.”

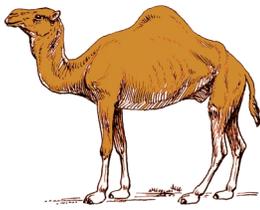
WHEN Tradition Nine was first written, it said that “Alcoholics Anonymous needs the least possible organization.” In years since then, we changed our minds about that. Today, we are able to say with assurance that Alcoholics Anonymous __ A.A. as a whole __ should never be organized at all. Then, in seeming contradiction, we proceed to create special service boards and committees which in themselves are organized. How, then, can we have an unorganized movement which can and does create a service organization for itself? Scanning this puzzler, people say, “What do they mean, no organization?”

Well, let’s see. Did anyone ever hear of a nation, a church, a political party, even a benevolent association that had no membership rules? Did anyone ever hear of a society which couldn’t somehow discipline its members and enforce obedience to necessary rules and regulations? Doesn’t nearly every society on earth give authority to some of its members to impose obedience upon the rest and to punish or expel offenders? Therefore, every nation, in fact every form of society, has to be a government administered by human beings. Power to direct or govern is the essence of organization everywhere.

Yet, Alcoholics Anonymous is an exception. It does not conform to this pattern. Neither its General Service Conference, its Foundation Board*, nor the humblest group committee can issue a single directive to an A.A. member and make it stick, let alone mete out any punishment. We’ve tried it lots of times, but utter failure is always the result

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Page 172-173

** in 1954, the name of Alcoholic Foundation, Inc., was changed to the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., and the Foundation office is now the General Service Office.*



I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.

Inside this issue:

Step 9—Tradition 9	1
Concept IX	2
9th Step Promise	3
Contributions	4
2019 Regional Forum	5
Events	6
9th Promise, Principles,	7

Stepping Stones is a monthly newsletter of the Ninth District Intergroup with the office located at: 4224 College Street, Beaumont, TX 77707. It is about, by and for the members of the Fellowship of AA. Opinions expressed herein are Not to be attributed to AA as a whole, nor does publication of information imply any endorsement by either AA or the Ninth District Intergroup.

Quotations and artwork from AA literature are reprinted with permission from AA World Service, Inc. and/or The AA Grapevine, Inc.

Contributions from our readers is encouraged. Submissions are edited for space and clarity only. Contact information is required and anonymity is respected. ■

CONCEPT IX

Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The AA Service Manual/ 12 Concepts for World Services—pg. 36 of the Concepts Section

No matter how carefully we design our service structure of principles and relationships, no matter how well we apportion authority and responsibility, the operating results of our structure can be no better than the personal performance of those who must man it and make it work. Good leadership cannot function well in a poorly designed structure. But weak leadership can hardly function at all, even in the best of structures. But once we have created a basically sound structure, that job is finished, except for occasional refinements.

With *leadership* we shall have a continuous problem. Good leadership can be here today and gone tomorrow. Furnishing our service structure with able and willing workers has to be a continuous activity. It is therefore a problem that in its very nature cannot be permanently solved. We must continuously find the right people for our many service tasks. Since our future effectiveness must thus depend upon ever-new generations of leaders, it seems desirable that we now proceed to define what a good service leader should be; that we carefully indicate in each level of service, especially in our Board of Trustees, what special skills will always be required; and that we review our present methods of finding and choosing that leadership.

* New literature at
9th District Intergroup

Announcing publication of...

Our Great Responsibility

A Selection of Bill W.'s
General Service Conference Talks, 1951 – 1970

Timeless and timely, these 16 talks give fresh perspectives on the A.A. Fellowship in our co-founder's own words.

- ❖ 270 pages, softcover with over 60 black-and-white and color images
- ❖ Derived from original audio recordings
- ❖ Featuring material never before published from the G.S.O. Archives

AAGRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous



<http://www.aagrapevine.org/>

To Receive Grapevine go the website and order



What Does the 9th Step Promise?

First, the step says that we will be amazed before we are half way through. Often times, this is taken to mean that we will be amazed before we are half way through with our Steps, but this is not what the wording of the promises means. It actually means that we will be amazed when we are half way through with our amends. This means that if you have 20 amends, by the time you get to 10 you may begin to experience some of the promises that are offered.

Now this is not always the case and there is no set number or percentage that allows you to secretly experience the promises, but rather it just means that if you are working towards change, amazing things will happen.

The promises then go on to say that you will know a new

freedom and a new happiness. This statement is pretty self-explanatory, but in regards to freedom, it means that you will no longer be bound to liquor or drugs and you will be free from the bondage of alcoholism.

It then tells you that you will not regret the past, nor wish to shut the door on it, which is something that any alcoholic would love to have happen. Many of us experience great shame when it comes to our actions in the past, and what you will find through doing amends is that you will come to peace with a lot of the people you harmed in the past. You will no longer cringe when you think about them and it will instead be a source of experience that you can use to help others.

The promises then go on to tell us that *we will know peace and serenity* and that no matter how far down we went into our alcoholism, we will be able to help others. That we will no longer feel useless and we will no longer

have such a great desire to participate in self-seeking activities. All of these combine in the promises to show that once they come to fruition in your life, you will be more interested in helping other people than you are in helping yourself. You will no longer be driven by selfish thinking because you will understand the peace you can derive from helping others.

Rounding out the promises are the most sought after pieces of it, no longer having fear of economic insecurity and people, and intuitively knowing how to handle situations. This part of the promises can come and go depending on your spiritual condition, but for the most part, an individual who is *working the Steps* in their daily life will experience these things and they will know peace.

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS — AUGUST 2019

Group	Month	Y to D	Group	Month	Y to D
6 O'Clock	\$0.00	\$0.00	Lumberton Singleness of Purpose	\$0.00	\$0.00
A New Beginning (Woodville)	\$0.00	\$60.00	Mid County (Nederland)	\$0.00	\$80.00
Anahuac	\$0.00	\$0.00	Murray Street	\$0.00	\$140.00
Bolivar	\$0.00	\$50.00	Mustard Seed	\$0.00	\$1,064.00
Bridge City	\$0.00	\$0.00	New Life	\$0.00	\$0.00
Buna	\$0.00	\$0.00	Newton	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cornerstone	\$0.00	\$0.00	Nueva Vida (Port Arthur)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Deweyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	Orange	\$10.00	\$110.00
Downtown	\$0.00	\$85.74	Pecan Groves	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fellowship	\$440.00	\$1,930.00	Pineywoods	\$0.00	\$100.00
Fresh Start	\$0.00	\$150.00	Pin Oak Group	\$0.00	\$0.00
Friends of Bill (Port Author)	\$0.00	\$0.00	Primary Purpose	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hope Group	\$0.00	\$355.00	Serenity	\$0.00	\$809.27
Jasper Noon	\$0.00	\$201.55	St Francis	\$300.00	\$1,080.97
Jasper Serenity	\$0.00	\$0.00	The Buck Stops Here	\$0.00	\$0.00
Keep It Simple	\$0.00	\$0.00	TLC	\$0.00	\$260.00
Kirbyville	\$0.00	\$88.00	Un Dia A La Vez	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kountze Daylight	\$0.00	\$0.00	Vidor	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lewis Drive	\$0.00	\$0.00	West End	\$0.00	\$200.00
Liberty	\$50.00	\$150.00	Winnie (Unconditional Love)	\$0.00	\$88.00
Lufkin	\$0.00	\$0.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
			Totals	\$800.00	\$7,002.53

**We want to sincerely thank you for your contributions. Please address your gifts to:
Ninth District Intergroup Association — 4224 College St — Beaumont, TX 77707**

Would You Be On Our 12 Step List?

Home Group: _____

Name: (Please Print) _____ Male/Female: _____

Address: _____

Phone: Home: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

Area In Which You Will Serve: _____

Car Available: Yes _____ No _____ Languages Spoken _____

Times Available: (Circle Choices Please) 8 AM – 6 PM 6 PM – 12 MDN 12 MDN – 8 AM

Days Available: (Circle Choices Please) SU M TU W TH F SA

Addresses AA Entities

Ninth District Intergroup

4224 College St
Beaumont, TX 77707

District 90 GSR Committee

PO Box 21279
Beaumont, TX 77720-1279

Southeast Texas Area 67

PO Box 130433
Houston, TX 77219-0433

AA General Service Office

PO Box 459
New York, NY 10163-0459

Opportunities For Service

SHARE THE MESSAGE IN THE COUNTY, STATE AND FEDERAL FACILITIES

We need men and women to go into the County jail on Sat. @ 11:30 AM each week. There is also a need for men to go into the State and Federal facilities on a weekly basis or even just once a month to give current volunteers a much needed break. Each facility requires a background check before you enter. To find out more information please come to the monthly GSR meeting and talk with the correction committee members or call Intergroup @ 409-832-1107.

TREATMENT FACILITY COMMITTEE

We need volunteers to go into both the men and the women's facilities.

Announcements

Next District 90 GSR Meeting

September 29, 2019 At 2:00 PM

(Day changed due to date conflict)

West End Group

1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Next 9th Dist. Intergroup Meeting

October 20, 2019 At 2:00 PM

Westgate Memorial Baptist Church

6220 Westgate Drive, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Meeting is held in the rear of the building.

TRADITIONS WORKSHOP

When: October 19, 2019 @ 12:30 - 3:30

Where: West End 1235 Crockett St.

For more information, and to volunteer to participate please contact: Rocco M. @ (409) 673-3247

Mary-Ann @ (409) 673-9121

Lunch will be served before the Workshop

Presented by the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous

Hosted by Area 67, SE Texas

2019 Southwest Regional Forum

October 11-13, 2019

Friday, 6pm through Noon on Sunday

in Houston, Texas



**Sheraton IAH
15700 JFK Blvd.**

Houston, Texas 77032

For Reservations call: 281-442-5100 or use the link below.

King or Double: \$82/night

Book your group rate for 2019 Southwest Regional Forum

Regional Forums encourage better communication and participation between the members of A.A., the General Service Board, staff and management of the General Service Office, A.A. World Services and the A.A. Grapevine. Forums offer the opportunity to ask questions, get answers and share new ideas.

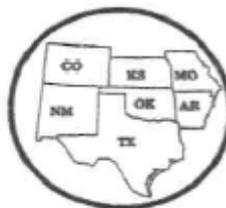
Come and enjoy a weekend of general fun and fellowship!

Workshops, Presentations and Sharing Sessions

Registration is free. All A.A. Members are welcome.

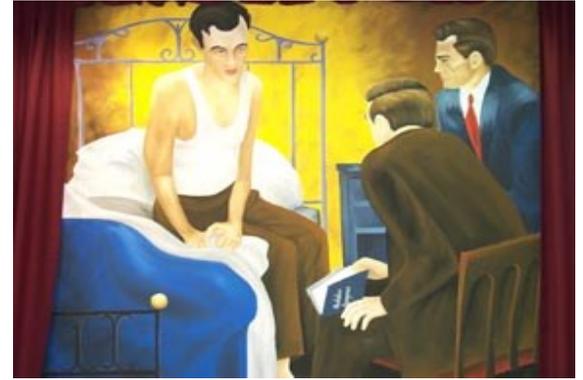
First-time attendees are encouraged so bring your sponsees!

Register at www.aa.org



Registration opens in August

Email: swrf.2019@gmail.com



Happy Birthday To You!!!



ST. FRANCIS 28TH ANNIVERSARY

Eating / Speaker Meeting

October 19th

6:00pm Fellowship

6:30pm Dinner

7:30pm Speaker: Tim H. Louisville, KY

Wesley UMC

Corner of Major Drive & Folsom

~ Childcare Provided ~

~ Bring a side dish meat will be provided ~

9th Step Principle

Justice

9th Promise

**Self-Seeking
Will Slip Away.**

